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# Keswick Urban District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

John Patterson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR  
1956

Together with the Summary of Work  
of the Public Health Inspector



Keswick Urban District Council

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## KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Keswick Urban District Council.

A full account of the year's work is included mainly in statistical form.

The Poliomyelitis epidemic in neighbouring areas caused some alarm amongst the public, but the expected epidemic spread to this district did not materialise.

My thanks are again due to Mr. R. Lusher, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, for his continued co-operation and earnestness in all his work, and I would also express my appreciation of the help given to me by the Clerk and his staff and the courtesy and kindness shown to me by the Members of the Council. Each year, Mr. Tom Wilson, Official Observer to the Meteorological Office and Air Ministry allows me to use his figures and comments in this report and I should like to extend my thanks to him for his courtesy.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN PATTERSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres) 1,272.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1956)  
4,730. (Mid-1955—4,760).

Number of inhabited houses, 1,634.

Rateable Value, £60,158.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £240.

The Tables of Vital Statistics are set out below, showing birth rates, death rates and rates for maternal and infantile mortality.

Crude birth and death rates are corrected by means of an Area Comparability Factor supplied each year by the Registrar General. They allow for varying age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and enable comparisons to be made with figures for other areas.

This year the factor for births is 1.00 and for deaths 0.86. The total live births were 40, 12 less than in 1955, resulting in a birth rate of 8.5 (8.5 corrected) compared with 10.9 in 1955. One of the births was illegitimate.

There was one still birth which represents a rate of 25.0 per thousand live births compared with 18.8 in 1955. The National rate for 1956 is 23.0 per thousand live births.

The number of deaths at all ages was 71 which gives a death rate of 15.0 (14.9 corrected) compared with 13.6 (10.7 corrected) in 1955.

There were no maternal deaths during the year. Amongst infants under one year of age, there was one death, the cause of the death being prematurity and occurring in the first week of life.

Deaths from cancer increased from 11 to 16 over the previous year, but the increase was not related to any one organ, and is in itself not significant.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Population of the URBAN DISTRICT (mid-1956)—4,730.

### LIVE BIRTHS—

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1,000 pop.	
						uncor- rected	cor- rected
1951	Legitimate	31	16	47			
	Illegitimate	5	0	5	52	10.8	10.8
1952	Legitimate	28	22	50			
	Illegitimate	0	2	2	52	11.1	11.1
1953	Legitimate	27	14	41			
	Illegitimate	0	2	2	43	9.0	9.0
1954	Legitimate	23	21	44			
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	44	9.2	9.2
1955	Legitimate	31	20	51			
	Illegitimate	0	1	1	52	10.9	10.9
1956	Legitimate	18	21	39			
	Illegitimate	0	1	1	40	8.5	8.5

### STILL BIRTHS—

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1,000 of Populat'n	
1951	Legitimate	1	0	1			
	Illegitimate	1	0	1	2		.41
1952	Legitimate	3	1	4			
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	4		.85
1953	Legitimate	1	0	1			
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1		.21
1954	Legitimate	0	0	0			
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	0		0.0
1955	Legitimate	0	1	1			
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1		0.21
1956	Legitimate	0	1	1			
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1		0.21



# DEATHS—

Year		Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 pop. uncorrected	Rate per 1000 pop. corrected
1951	...	33	56	89	18.5	14.6
1952	...	33	35	68	14.5	11.4
1953	...	28	24	52	10.9	8.6
1954	...	24	34	58	12.2	9.6
1955	...	26	39	65	13.6	10.7
1956	...	32	39	71	15.0	14.9

# MATERNAL MORTALITY—

Year		Deaths	Rate per 1000 births
1951	...	0	0.0
1952	...	0	0.0
1953	...	0	0.0
1954	...	0	0.0
1955	...	0	0.0
1956	...	0	0.0

# INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES—

Year		Deaths of infants under 1 yr.	All infants per 1000 live births	Legitimate infants per 1000 live legitimate births	Illegitimate infants per 1000 live illegitimate births
1951	...	0	0	0	0
1952	...	1	19	20	0
1953	...	1	23	24	0
1954	...	0	0	0	0
1955	...	1	19	19	0
1956	...	1	25	25	0

# TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE—

Year		Pulmonary T.B. Deaths	Other T.B. Deaths	Total T.B. Deaths	Pulmonary T.B. death rate per 1000 pop.	Total T.B. death rate per 1000 pop.
1951	...	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
1952	...	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
1953	...	1	0	1	0.21	0.21
1954	...	1	0	1	0.21	0.21
1955	...	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
1956	...	0	0	0	0.0	0.0

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES (uncorrected)—

**Birth Rate :**

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
England and Wales	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7
County of Cumberland	17.1	17.3	16.7	16.4	16.4	16.9
Urban Districts of Cumb.	17.2	17.6	17.5	17.5	16.7	17.5
Keswick Urban	10.8	11.1	9.0	9.2	10.9	8.5

**Death Rate :**

England and Wales	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7
County of Cumberland	13.2	12.1	11.9	11.9	12.2	12.2
Urban Districts of Cumb.	13.2	12.9	11.8	11.4	12.2	12.3
Keswick Urban	18.5	14.5	10.9	12.2	13.6	15.0

**Infantile Mortality :—**

England and Wales	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8
County of Cumberland	34	32	27	27.6	28.4	30.4
Urban Districts of Cumb.	32	29	30	24.9	27.3	32.5
Keswick Urban	0.0	19	23	0.0	19.2	25.0



# CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1956

Causes of Death				Male	Female
All Causes				32	39
1.	Tuberculosis Respiratory	...	...	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningo-coccal infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	1	—
11.	„ „ lung, bronchus	...	...	1	1
12.	„ „ breast	...	...	—	2
13.	„ „ uterus	...	...	—	2
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	6	3
15.	Leukoemia, aleukoema	...	...	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	2	5
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	6	7
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	1	—
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	10	15
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	—	—
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	—	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	1	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	—	—
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	—	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total				1	Nil

## INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths under one year showing varying causes and ages :—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1				1					1

## SENILE DEATH RATE

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
65-70 years ...	2	4	6
70-75 years ...	3	7	10
75-80 years ...	10	8	18
80-85 years ...	4	6	10
85-90 years ...	5	6	11
90-95 years ...	0	1	1
Totals ...	24	32	56

Senile Death Rate 78.8% of total deaths (1955—72.3)

## DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE

Cause	No. of Deaths	% of all causes	Rate per 1000 of population
Suicide 1955 ...	3	4.6	0.63
1956 ...	0	0.0	0.0
Road Traffic 1955 ...	0	0.0	0.0
Accidents 1956 ...	0	0.0	0.0
Other Violence 1955 ...	0	0.0	0.0
1956 ...	1	1.4	0.21
Total 1955 ...	3	4.6	0.63
1956 ...	1	1.4	0.21

## DEATHS FROM CANCER

	Site of Disease	Males	Females
System	Primary Organ		
Alimentary	Stomach	1	0
	Duoderum	1	0
	Aesophagus	1	0
	Colon	0	3
	Rectum	2	0
	Liver	1	0
Reproductive	Uterus	0	2
Glandular	Breast	0	2
Respiratory	Lung	1	1
Lymphatic	Mediastinum	1	0
	Totals	8	8

Age at Death	Males	Females	Totals
Between 40 and 50 years	—	1	1
Between 50 and 60 years	1	—	1
Between 60 and 70 years	3	2	5
Between 70 and 80 years	4	2	6
Between 80 and 90 years	—	2	2
90 years upwards	—	1	1
Totals	8	8	16

Cancer Death Rate 3.4 per 1000 population (1955—2.3 per 1000 pop.)  
 Approximately 1 death in 4 were due to Cancer.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The total number of infectious diseases notified in 1956 was 38. Excluding measles and whooping cough the number is 5.

There were no notifications of enteric fever or food poisoning.

### **CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER**

	Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary ...	18	12	30
Non-Pulmonary	4	8	12
	—	—	—
All Cases ...	22	20	42

## **POLIOMYELITIS**

During the year, poliomyelitis was fairly extensive in the north-west and the areas of Whitehaven and Ennerdale Rural District were fairly heavily involved. The expected spread to this district did not occur and no cases were notified. At the end of the year a vaccine was produced and distributed by the Ministry of Health, but because of the small amounts only selected age groups (1947-1954 birth years) were given the vaccine and even then a further selection at random was made with the result that the number who had a complete course (i.e. 2 injections at monthly intervals) in this district was 2.

Those whose parents have given consent but were not included at this time will be vaccinated when more vaccine becomes available.

## **Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases**

Influenza was prevalent only in mild degree during the year under review and no death was attributed to this disease, so that the Influenza Death Rate was Nil per 1,000 of population.

## **SUSPECTED FOOD POISONING**

On 13th April, 41 pupils at an infants school in Keswick were reported to have had vomiting, mainly the previous night. There was diarrhoea in 10% of the cases only, and abdominal pains only with diarrhoea. 15 were able to attend school next day with no further symptoms. All had returned after 3 days.

40% had had a school meal, and some who were sick had not had school milk and some who had had milk were not affected.

Investigation ruled out the school meals, the school milk and the coke fired boiler as the source of illness.



Several adults became ill 2 days later with the same symptoms and in each case a child in the household had been one of the afflicted at the school.

Samples were taken from the children and from adults affected, from the school meals and milk, etc. but all were negative for the usual organisms. At that time laboratory facilities in this area for the isolation of viruses were not available. The symptomology and epidemiology of this outbreak is very similar to that illness known as winter epidemic vomiting or epidemic nausea, which is caused by a virus.

## **IMMUNISATION**

**DIPHTHERIA.**—There were again no notifications of Diphtheria ; the case rate and death rates, therefore, respectively, were nil.

The immunisation campaign against diphtheria was continued as before.

During the year under review 13 infants under 5 years were given primary injections (two at intervals of a few weeks), several by their own private doctors.

157 children received a single re-inforcing dose (these are children who received the two primary doses 4 to 5 years previously).

The co-operation of the local medical practitioners, head teachers, the district Nurses and, particularly, that of the County Health Visitor, Miss Horn, is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

It is considered essential to reiterate that sustained effort must continue to be made by all concerned to achieve the level of immunisation necessary among children generally, and particularly in regard to infants under one year of age and in the 0 to 5 years group.

## **B.C.G. (TUBERCULOSIS)**

Mantoux testing, Mass Miniature Radiography and B.C.G. vaccination was continued in 1956, the age group concerned being those born in 1942.

Of the 97 children in this age group attending schools in Keswick 78 were tested (consent rate of 80%) and 30 (38.5%) were found to be positive reactors, i.e. to have been in contact with tuberculosis. The remaining 48 were given B.C.G. vaccination which was successful in all cases. The figure of 38.5% for positive reactors is slightly above the average for the County as a whole

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
2. One Public Health Inspector, Mr. Ralph Lusher, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., being also the Surveyor and Water Engineer.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **WATER SUPPLY**

The yield from the various supplies continues to be adequate at all times.

Chlorination was continued during the year.

Eighteen samples of water were submitted for analysis during the year, all of which were regarded by the analyst as highly satisfactory.

The water is soft in character and lead pipes are not used owing to the liability of plumbo solvency. Copper service pipes are used throughout the district.

With the exception of 8 houses at High Briery, where there is a stand pipe, all premises have a piped supply.

### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

No major extension of the sewerage system was carried out.

The Council's Consulting Engineers reported on conditions at the Sewage Disposal Works and recommended additions and modifications which are estimated to cost £80,000.

### **SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE**

2 Karrier Bantam refuse wagons are employed but one of these is used part time on other work.

Very few complaints are received and this service is generally satisfactory.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and a full time attendant is in charge of the refuse tip.

The salvage of paper and cardboard continued to increase during the year and comparative figures of sales in the past five years are as follows :—

1952.	60 tons sold for £400.
1953.	49 tons sold for £370.
1954.	63 tons sold for £485.
1955.	92 tons sold for £800.
1956.	140 tons sold for £1,042.

In addition scrap iron, rags, woollens and none ferrous metals were sold to the value of £185.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article XIX of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1926.

Premises inspected during the year	...	...	...	130
Nuisances or defects discovered	...	...	...	30
Do. do. remedied after informal notice	...	...	...	27
Do. do. remedied after statutory notice	...	...	...	3
Housing Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	120
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	16

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

A total of 16 inspections were made by the Public Health Inspector, and the 2 defects revealed were remedied by informal action. The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1954 :—

Premises	Number	Inspections	Defects Found	Written Notices	Defects Remedied	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority .	16	12	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .	43	4	2	0	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals . . .	59	16	2	—	—	—

(Section 1 refers to Cleanliness, 2 to overcrowding, 3 Temperature, 4 Ventilation, 6 Drainage of Floors, and 7 Sanitary Conveniences).

The above figures include 5 bakehouses.

Outworkers—Nil.

### SHOPS ACT, 1934

Periodic Inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector. No action was taken during the year.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employees undertake treatment as recommended. The sewers were treated several times during the year and the refuse tip was treated 8 times which included a comprehensive treatment of the area by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries : treatments were also carried out at 12 private houses.

## HOUSING

22 new Council houses were completed and occupied and a further 6 houses were in course of erection on the new housing site at Latrigg Close.

The total number of Council houses now completed since the war is 175.

Two Private Enterprise houses were completed and occupied during 1956 bringing the total of new private houses completed since the war to 65.

## HOUSING APPENDIX

### STATISTICS

#### 1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling - houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	56
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	75
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above (which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932) ... ..	0
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	0
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	4
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	40

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices : Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	16
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## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

These Regulations came into force on the 1st January, 1956, and they apply to all premises where food is handled. Copies of a leaflet summarising the main provisions of the Regulations were sent to all food premises in the district. A substantial number of premises were inspected and 8 informal notices were served drawing attention to defects in the premises. These were all dealt with by the end of the year with the exception of two cases.

## CARAVAN SITES

There are three licensed caravan sites in the district and these were inspected on many occasions.

A notice under section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 was served on the owner of one of the caravan sites requiring the provision of additional sanitary accommodation. This was complied with.

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## MILK SUPPLY

There were fourteen registered milk sellers, six of these being producers and retailers, whose premises were in the Urban District. Inspections continued to be made periodically.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were six of such producer-retailers during 1955.

Four licences have been issued for the selling of Designated Milk in the Keswick Urban District.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no slaughter houses in the Urban area, all meat is transported from abattoirs outside the district.

The following is a brief summary of foodstuffs for which 14 certificates of unsoundness were issued by the Public Health Inspector.—

56 lbs. cooked meat, and 12 tins of various foods. These food-stuffs were removed by the refuse collectors and buried at the refuse tip.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 5 in existence. As usual all these premises were periodically inspected.

ICE-CREAM.—Registered premises for manufacture or sale	...	35
" " sale only	...	28
Number of Inspections	...	12

## FOOD (Preparation and Manufacture) Premises

Registered Premises for the preparation and manufacture

of foods	...	...	...	...	...	11
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Number of Inspections	..	...	...	...	...	12
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# INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS, 1956

	Total cases	Age distribution									Monthly Incidence of disease											
		Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	Over 65 years	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever ...																						
Whooping Cough ...																						
Acute Poliomyelitis—																						
Paralytic ...																						
Non-Paralytic ...																						
Measles ...																						
Diphtheria ...																						
Acute Pneumonia ...																						
Dysentery ...																						
Smallpox ...																						
Acute Encephalitis—																						
Infective ...																						
Post-infectious ...																						
Typhoid Fever ...																						
Paratyphoid Fever ...																						
Meningococcal infection ...	1	1																		1		
Food Poisoning ...																						
Puereral Pyrexia ...																						
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																						
Tuberculosis—																						
Meninges & C.N.S. ...	2							2	1	1	1			1								
Respiratory ...	2																					
Other Forms ...																						
Totals ...	38	2	5	6	20	1		2	1	1	1			1	1	1	1			1	32	

# METEOROLOGICAL STATION

Height above sea level, 254 feet.

Lat. 54° 36' N. Long 3° 9' W.

## RETURNS FOR 1956

Month	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		
	Amount	Average		Amount	Average	
	Ins. Days	54 years		Hrs. Days	54 years	
January	... 3.53 on 20	... 6.12 ...		32.0 on 17	... 33.6	
February	... .78 on 9	... 4.40 ...		62.7 on 20	... 53.9	
March	... 2.13 on 12	... 3.74 ...		140.0 on 26	... 120.9	
April	... 1.20 on 11	... 3.18 ...		155.9 on 26	... 134.2	
May	... 3.14 on 21	... 3.23 ...		224.3 on 30	... 181.6	
June	... 2.24 on 21	... 3.20 ...		155.2 on 26	... 178.3	
July	... 7.23 on 18	... 4.25 ...		130.7 on 27	... 155.4	
August	... 10.73 on 23	... 5.26 ...		109.2 on 20	... 140.0	
September	... 4.10 on 18	... 5.09 ...		78.9 on 21	... 115.7	
October	... 4.50 on 13	... 6.04 ...		100.7 on 24	... 79.8	
November	... 2.51 on 14	... 5.67 ...		41.5 on 15	... 46.2	
December	... 8.65 on 28	... 6.56 ...		14.3 on 8	... 27.3	
Totals	... 50.74 on 208			1245.4 on 260		

Average Annual Rainfall, 54 years, 57.45.

Average Annual Sunshine Hours, 54 years, 1246.5.

TEMPERATURES				Nights Frost	Wind at Gale Force	Snow Lying
Highest Maximum (in screen)	Lowest Minimum (in screen)	Lowest Minimum (on grass)	Ave. Daily Temp.			
51 on 5th	25 on 9th	17 on 25th	38.1	22	1	4
53 on 28th	16 on 2nd	10 on 2nd	34.0	23	—	18
61 on 26th	29 on 14th	24 on 14th	45.2	9	1	—
58 on 21st	27 on 16th	19 on 16th	44.0	19	—	—
73 on 28th	32 on 19th	25 on 20th	51.5	5	—	—
77 on 11th	34 on 15th	28 on 15th	55.1	1	—	—
78 on 27th	41 on 11th	36 on 11th	58.6	—	1	—
71 on 10th	39 on 31st	32 on 31st	55.9	—	—	—
77 on 25th	37 on 17th	33 on 17th	57.0	—	1	—
64 on 15th	28 on 27th	22 on 27th	48.2	6	—	—
55 on 8th	24 on 30th	17 on 30th	43.9	12	—	—
55 on 6, 13th	25 on 27th	23 on 27th	44.2	10	—	2
Average Daily Temperature			47.9	107	4	14

EARTH  
TEMPERATURE (at Observation Hr., 0.900 hrs.)

Month	EARTH TEMPERATURE (at Observation Hr., 0.900 hrs.)				WIND				
	High- est 1 ft.	Low- est 1 ft.	High- est 4 ft.	Low- est 4 ft.	Calm	Quad- rant N'th.	Quad- rant S'th.	Quad- rant East	Quad- rant West
January	43.1	34.0	45.4	42.9	11	5	6	4	5
February	38.1	32.5	43.5	41.0	11	10	—	6	2
March	44.9	37.4	44.9	40.1	1	1	18	6	5
April	46.9	43.4	45.9	43.4	10	2	5	7	6
May	57.0	49.3	50.2	45.9	4	6	8	1	12
June	61.4	53.0	53.6	50.1	5	11	3	1	10
July	62.2	56.5	56.5	53.9	6	3	4	10	8
August	58.9	53.8	56.6	55.0	18	1	4	—	8
September	59.5	54.0	56.0	55.0	11	1	7	4	7
October	55.2	45.2	55.8	52.3	10	6	3	—	12
November	47.4	39.8	52.2	48.5	16	4	4	1	5
December	47.3	38.1	48.1	44.6	9	2	7	1	12
Totals					112	52	69	41	92

### ABNORMAL PRECIPITATION

November 2nd and 3rd, 1931	6.16 inches in 36 hours.
November 3rd, 1931	4.86 inches
November 12th, 1938	3.37 inches
November 4th, 1926	3.30 inches in 9½ hours.
December 24th, 1925	3.52 inches
August 2nd, 1923	3.60 inches
July 13th, 1932	2.56 inches in 5 hours.
December 2nd, 1902	3.12 inches

### SUNDRY NOTES

Lightning observed	...	...	...	12 days
Thunder heard	...	...	...	14 days
Thunderstorm with precipitation	...	...	...	13 days
More than 1 inch of rain fell on	...	...	...	6 days
More than 2 inches of rain fell on	...	...	...	2 days
Visibility less than 1,000 yards	...	...	...	4 days
Warmest day — July 27th	...	...	...	78.0
Coldest day — February 2nd	...	...	...	16.0
Lowest Minimum (on Grass), Feb. 23rd	...	...	...	10.0



## WEATHER OF 1956

Unpleasant happenings linger longer in our minds than those more pleasant, hence the weather of July and August are not easily forgotten, even though the remainder of the year was mostly dry and sunny. The first half of this perverse year gave 10% more sunshine than the normal, and little more than half the usual rainfall, 13.02 against 23.87 inches for the same period. There were very few warm days during the whole of the year, only 15 of which registered more than 70 degrees and 7 over 75 degrees. The warmest day was July 27th when 78 degrees was recorded, while February 2nd with 16 degrees was the coldest.

The cold Spring was a result of the South-Easterly winds which persisted week after week.

Rainfall records show an average of 50.74 inches for the year, while bright sunshine records an average of 1245.4 hours.

JANUARY—Opened with a dry week and slight frost, followed by snow which lay for three days. A gale on the 20th and showers to follow ended a not too exciting opening for the year.

FEBRUARY—A very dry month with snowfalls, though slight, persisted from 16th to 24th during which periods the countryside was covered and road conditions treacherous.

MARCH—Came in like a roaring lion and departed like the legendary lamb. There were numerous fine sunny days, with a little of everything, gales, fog, snow, hail and a thunderstorm, but the mixed grill proved a fine dry month.

APRIL—Another fine dry month with plenty of bright sunshine. On the 30th the level of Derwentwater fell to within  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches of the 1940 mark.

MAY—Showery and mainly cool.

JUNE—Gave us a few rather summery days with bright sunshine, also several which could be classed in the wintry type with numerous hail showers. There was ground frost on the 15th.

JULY—Will be remembered by the landladies. A showery period accompanied by thunderstorms gave way for a spell of fine warm sunny weather over Convention Week, in the middle of which a violent thunderstorm with heavy rain was of interest to those whose slumber was disturbed. A gale on the 28th with heavy rain reached the "almost" flood mark.

AUGUST—Kept up its long tradition, unobliging and treacherous. The second wettest month of the year. Very poor heather season.

SEPTEMBER—A fair month. Spells of fine and spells of wet.

OCTOBER—Started with numerous hail showers which gave us the first snow on the hills by the 3rd. Then followed a good fine week, which in turn gave way to alternate wet and fine spells. Autumn tints were a joy to behold, hills and woods were at their best. Unfortunately the wettest day of the month was experienced the day preceeding the Royal visit. It was wild and cold, for Her Majesty The Queen.

NOVEMBER—Fairly dry, with frost on 12 nights. Fine bright days for a week, then showers, followed again by a full week without rain. A real grand month for farmers, enabling the muck spreaders ample scope for their useful though not too fragrant purpose.

DECEMBER—A fair amount of showery days with hail. Snow towards the end covered valley, hill and roads as the snowploughs testified by their frequent passage to and fro. Thus ended a rather uninteresting year bereft of excesses or excitement.



